

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05 NSAE-00

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 902

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 5192

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSNAVEUR

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1735

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJ: MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE: PRIORITIES

REF: A. USNATO 1448

B. USNATO 1661 (NOTAL)

INTERNATIONAL STAFF (IS) HAS CIRCULATED SECTION ON "PRIORITIES"
AS ADDENDUM TO DRAFT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE (REF A). DEFENSE REVIEW
COMMITTEE (DRC) WILL DISCUSS DRAFT GUIDANCE DOCUMENT IN TOTO
DURING APRIL 8 MEETING. MISSION COMMENT: DURING MARCH 27
INFORMAL DRC MEETING, US REP (DR. LEGERE) URGED THAT PARA 57
INCLUDE: A) REINFORCEMENT FORCES NEEDED TO MAINTAIN A SUCCESSFUL
CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE AS PRIORITY AREA FOR RESOURCE ALLOCATION AND
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B) EMPHASIS ON INCREASED REGIONAL FORCE PLANNING. IS
RELUCTANTLY COVERED THESE POINTS IN DRAFT.
END COMMENT.

TEXT FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

PRIORITIES

55. IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN THE BEST MILITARY VALUE FROM THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE WITHOUT A REALY VIGOROUS INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF PRIORITIES.

56. AN AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION WHICH WILL ASSURE A ROUGH PARITY OF STRATEGIC NUCLEAR POWER BETWEEN EAST AND WEST; ON THE WESTERN SIDE THESE FORCES NEED TO BE MODERNISED, BUT NOT EXPANDED BEYOND THE SCALE ENVISAGED IN CURRENT PLANS. THEATRE NUCLEAR FORCES WILL RETAIN THEIR IMPORTANCE IN THE NATO TRIAD AND WILL REQUIRE MODERNISATION. IT IS, HOWEVER, IN THE CONVENTIONAL FIELD THAT THERE IS MOST DANGER OF THE WARSAW PACT GAINING A DECISIVE ADVANTAGE OVER NATO; THIS IS, THEREFORE, THE ELEMENT OF NATO'S DETERRENT AND DEFENCES WHICH IS MOST IN NEED OF STRENGTHENING.

57. CRITICAL DEFICIENCIES IN NATO'S CONVENTIONAL FORCES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND PRIORITIES FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE AD 70 EXERCISE (INCLUDING THE BASIC ISSUES STUDIES). NEVERTHELESS THE PRESSURE ON RESOURCES IS SUCH THAT IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT THESE PROGRAMMES IN FULL AND A MORE SELECTIVE APPROACH WILL THEREFORE BE NECESSARY. CERTAIN GENERAL CRITERIA SHOULD BE USED TO DETERMINE THE ALLOCATION OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES; PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO:

- CAPABILITIES WHICH CONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TO DETERRENCE;

- FORCES NEEDED FOR THE DIRECT DEFENCE OF THE NATO AREA WHICH ARE IN PLACE IN TIME OF PEACE;

- FORCES WHICH CAN BE DEPLOYED EFFECTIVELY WITHIN THE WARNING TIME AVAILABLE AND WHICH CAN AFFECT
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THE INITIAL STAGES OF HOSTILITIES;

- REINFORCEMENT FORCES, INCLUDING MOBILISABLE FORCES, WHICH CAN HELP MAINTAIN A SUCCESSFUL CONVENTIONAL DEFENCE.

- MEASURES WHICH IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND READINESS OF THESE FORCES AND CAPABILITIES AND WHICH PROLONG THE ABILITY OF NATO TO SURVIVE AND SUSTAIN A SUCCESSFUL

THESE SHOULD BE SUPPORTED IF NECESSARY AT THE EXPENSE OF FORCES AND CAPABILITIES WHICH DO NOT CONFORM TO THE ABOVE. THESE GENERAL CRITERIA WILL NEED TO BE INTERPRETED IN SPECIFIC

TERMS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL
CONSIDERATIONS, IN ORDER TO GOVERN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATO
FORCE GOALS AND NATIONAL FORCE PLANS.
END TEXT. PEREZ

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT

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